

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2176

ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF DAL LAKE

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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of Central funds sanctioned/allocated and utilised by the State Government of Jammu & Kashmir for conservation of Dal Lake during each of the last three years and thereafter;
- (b) whether even after spending a huge amount on its conservation, the lake is still polluted;
- (c) if so, the factors attributed thereto;
- (d) whether CAG has also indicated its unhappiness over the pollution in the lake in his recent report;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the corrective action taken/proposed to be taken thereon;
- (f) whether the cases of encroachment in the lake have also been reported;
- (g) if so, the total area of the lake in 1962 vis-a-vis its area as on date indicating separately the area encroached upon; and
- (h) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) The Central Government has sanctioned the project of 'Conservation & Management of Dal-Nagin Lake in Srinagar' under the National Lake Conservation Plan in September 2005 for Rs. 298.76 crore. The funds released by the Central Government and the expenditure incurred on the project by the Government of J&K during last three years are as under:

Year	Funds released by Government of India (Rs. crore)	Funds Utilized (Rs. crore)
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2004-2005	17.41	
2005-2006	40.00	28.62
2006-2007	30.00	19.88

In the year 2004-05, expenditure was incurred from Additional Central Assistance funds provided by Planning Commission to the Government of J&K for conservation of Dal lake.

(b) & (c) Works relating to various components of the project namely, sewerage system and sewage treatment plants, hydraulic works, solid waste management, catchment area management, etc. are under implementation in a phased manner for completion of the project by the scheduled date of March, 2010. Thus, the full impact of the lake conservation activities will be felt only after all the works under the project are completed.

(d) & (e) The CAG Report (March, 2006) has recommended that the J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (J&K LWDA) is required to prepare a time bound Action Plan on lake conservation and rehabilitation activities, to take measures to check inflow of sediments & nutrients and to improve the lake water quality. Other important recommendations are to work out sustainable alternatives for drainage and treatment of sewage and to establish effective monitoring mechanism for overseeing the implementation of works. The J&K LWDA has informed that necessary action on these recommendations has been initiated. Work on three sewage treatment plants and the settling basin at Telbal Nala to arrest part of inflow of sediments and nutrients into the lake have already been completed.

(f) to (h) As per the information received from J&K LWDA, no authentic data about the total area of the lake in the year 1962 is available. The bathymetry survey carried out by M/s. RITES Limited, New Delhi during 1999-2000 indicates the area of Dal-Nagin

Lake, including small water bodies, channels and floating gardens as 18.51 sq. kms. The J&K LWDA have also informed that state waters measuring 2286 kanals 10 marlas and privately owned waters measuring 315 kanals 17 marlas have been identified by the State Revenue Department as encroached. On the directions of the Hon'ble J&K High Court, the said encroachments on state waters have been removed by the J&K LWDA, while an area of 41 kanals of encroachment on privately owned waters has also been dredged out by them.